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A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
VENEREAL DISEASE:

DECLARING THE
CAUSES, SIGNS, EFFECTS,
And *CURE* thereof.

With a DISCOURSE of the most Wonderful
ANTIVENEREAL PILL.

Prepared onely by
CHARLES PETER,

Chyrurgeon, and Practitioner in Physick.

And are to be sold at his House in *St. Martins-lane,* near *Long-acre,* over against the
Sign of the *Castle.*

L O N D O N,

Printed for the Author. 1675.



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READER,

I Have, for the Common Good, made publick my Antivenereal Pill. I doubt not but some will cavil at my Endeavours, and those perhaps some of my own Profession; though themselves either cannot, or will not, advantage the Good of the Publick. The great number of People which I have seen in many Parts of this Kingdom to have perished (for want of Help) by the Venereal Disease, hath occasioned me to unfold to the World what I never did intend to do, as touching the Disease: For the confidence of many Persons, that pretend to cure this Distemper, and the ignorance of those Persons that adventure their Lives into the Hands of such Impostors, who, without fear of God, or compassion to Mankind, promise Cure (let the Distemper be never so bad) taking Money in hand, and giving many ineffectual Doses, either destroy the Patient, or make him worse, perhaps throw him into a dangerous Salivation, and so to his Grave. The which while I have often deplored, I thought my self bound in Conscience to inform the

ring than is too commonly practised by many bold Undertakers. What Mischiefs many illiterate Persons have caus'd, by their ill-prepared Doses, many miserable Patients can witness, (the greater the shame) while we live in a Kingdom so well furnished with Learned Physicians and skilful Chyrurgeons, whose Knowledge in Anatomy, and daily Experience, make them the onely Persons capable of undertaking so dangerous a Malady. A Disease not to be trifled with: For, although generally we find, in our Weekly Bills of Mortality, that Consumption is intituled the greatest Executioner of Deaths Commands; yet I am of the opinion, that the Venereal Distemper is the greater Destroyer of Mankind. I will therefore give thee an Account of the Nature of this Hydra, with a Discourse of my Pill, which, I assure thee, is the choicest Remedy that can be used in all Effects of the Venereal Distemper.

COncerning the Original of the *Venereal Disease*, Authours are various, and differ much in the Name of it: The *Italians* call it *Morbus Gallicus*; the *French* call it *Scabiem Hispanicam*, and *Morbum Italicum*; in *Spain* they call it *Morbum Neopolitanum*; and several other Names. I do omit. The *French*

the *Spaniards* they lay it on the *French*; and both *Italians* and *French* accuse the *Spaniard*, and say, that *Columbus* brought home his Men infected with it from the *Indies*. But I think it matters not from whence it came, or what 'tis called, since 'tis known we have it in *England* as much as any where: The Common People here call it *The French Pox*; and I shall treat of it by the Name of *Lues Venerea*, under which Name I shall comprehend the *Grand Pox*, and the *Gonorrhæa*, and all Effects of either of them.

The Causes of the LUES VENEREA.

THE Causes of this Distemper are twofold: The first, of an occult Quality, being as a Scourge laid on *Mankind* (by the *Almighty*) to restrain our too wanton *Lusts*; the other is by an impure touch or contagion, especially in *Copulation*; a Man receiving of an infected Vapour or filthy Sanies into the Pores of the Skin, or into the *Urethra* (which is the Conduit of the *Yard*) in the time of *Copulation*, as well before the ejecting of the Seed, as after; the *Woman* having either a *Gonorrhæa*, or else an *Ulcer*: from the latter of which I have known to proceed so virulent an ichorous Matter, that it hath penetrated the *Yard* immediately, and caused an *Ulcer*.

There are several other ways by which this Disease may be gotten; as by *Sodomy*, &c.. I have known some to get it by *Kissing*: for if either Party have an *Ulcer* in the *Throat*, or in the *Mouth*, from which a slimie Juice proceeding, and the Lips being moistned thereby, may very easily infect *Children* are very subject to be infected this way; for, by reason the Pores of their Skin being open

and apt to attract, they are soon injur'd by an *un-wholesom Kiss*. The *Venom* is very often communicated from *Nurses* to *Children*, and as often *Nurses* are infected by *Children*; therefore *Parents* ought to be careful in chusing *Nurses*, and *Nurses* ought to take heed whose *Children* they *suckle*; for a very small matter is able to infect either, and many *Families* have been undone by receiving the *Distemper* this way. 'Tis dangerous to sweat in a Bed with one that has the *Pox*, or to sit over a Close-stool where the *Excrements* of a *pockie person* are. For drinking with them, 'tis not dangerous, unless their *Mouths* being *ulcerated*, they leave a *pockie Slime* on the Edges of the Cup; nor can their *Breaths* infect, I am sure, though some are of a contrary opinion. There is a great deal of variety in *Bodies*, some being far more easily infected than others, as *sanguine* and *phlegmatick persons*; but are more easily cured than *choleric* or *melancholy persons* are: as for example, I have known several *Men* to be concerned with one *Woman*, one soon after the other, and some to come off without being hurt, and the others dangerously pepper'd.

The Signs of the LUES VENEREA.

THE Signs of this *Distemper* are various, according to the *Strength* and *Constitution* of the *Patient*. The general Signs are these; viz. A great debility of the whole *Body*, as if wearied by much *Labour*; *Stiffness* of all the *Joynts*, especially about the *Hips* and *Thighs*; great pulsation of the *Arteries*, a shooting pain in the *Groins*, pain in the *Cod*, itching about the *Root* of the *Yard*, sharpness of *Urine*, a pricking pain in *Erection*, a flowing of yellow Sa-

nies from the *Yard*, and oft-times pain in the *Back*,
 and in the *Head*: These are the *infallible Signs* of a
Gonorrhoea, some of them hapning to one, and some
 to another; and I have known all of them to hap-
 pen to one *Person*, and at one *Time*. Sometimes
Caruncles do stop up the *Urethra*, sometimes *Buboes*
 do arise in the *Groins*, which if once *suppurate* and
opened handsomly, the *Cure* is performed with much
ease; but if they are drove back into the *Body*, they
 make the *Distemper* more inveterate, seise the *Liver*,
 and confirm a *Pox*. Some *Persons* immediately
 after the receiving of the *Infection* are taken with a
giddiness in the *Head*, and most terrible pains in
 the *Eyes* and *Ears*, and break out with small red
Pimples, which presently return into the *Body*, and
 a while after break out with foul *Scabs*, some moist
 and *spreading*, though generally they are dry and
 hard, and very nearly represent the cup of an *Acorn*,
 both in *shape* and *colour*: Some have *Ulcers* upon
 the *Head* of the *Yard*, and upon the *Fore-skin*,
 some are troubled with *Warts* upon the *Yard* and
 about the *Fundament*: These are certain *Symptoms*
 of the *Pox*.—*Note*, That this *Distemper* doth vary
 much in its *Times*, many times shewing it self in
 one, two, or three *Days*, sometimes lying hid a
Month, two, or three, and sometimes a *Year* or
 more; but it lieth not idle, for the longer it lies
 hid, the more inveterate it proves when once it
 appears; and oft-times, disguised under another
Name, it tyranniseth in the *Body*, to the destruction
 of the *Patient*. I therefore advise all *Persons*, That
 so soon as they find themselves touched with this
venomous Dart, they straightway repair to such
Persons as are able to help them.

The Effects of the LUES VENEREA.

TO demonstrate all the *Effects* of this raging *Distemper*, would take me up much time; therefore, as briefly as possible, I will acquaint thee how great a *Tyrant* this *Disease* is to those People who either scorn to own they have it, or those who being ashamed to confess their Condition, rather venture to undergo it, than wisely to seek for *Help*. I have known some so *sordidly foolish*, that having had *Ulcers* on the *Head* of the *Yard*, have so long slighted the *Disease*, until their *Yards* have been mortified even to the *Belly*, upon which ensued immediate *Death*; and some escaping with their *Lives*, have lost all the *Member*: Others I have known to have been almost eaten up with this *Disease*, before they have known so much as the *Name* of their *Malady*. I have seen some that have been taken with a *violent pain* in the *Head*, and in *all the Joints*, have fallen into a *Fever*, and died *mad*. Some have *sharp and continual pains* in *all the Joints*, especially in the *Shoulders* and *Shins*, and *Nodes* affixed to the *Bones* in many *Parts* of the *Body*, insomuch that the very *Bones* become rotten; for this *Humour* is so penetrating, that it will creep between the *Bone* and the *Flesh*, and consume both. Some have the *Yard* so stopped with *Caruncles*, that they cannot make *Water*; some have the *Uvula* and the *Palat* of the *Mouth* eaten away by *Ulcers*; and many you see who lose their *Noses* by this *violent Disease*. Some have the *Tip* of the *Nose* and *Nostrils* eaten away; some lose their *Eyes*, and many their *Hearing*, and some their *Mouths* drawn awry. And indeed I could

Oh, how intolerable are the pains that many poor Wretches endure by this Distemper, especially in the Night, at which time it most boldly walks its Rounds to afflict poor Mortals! For indeed all pains are worse in the Night than in the Day, by reason that the exercising of the Body doth divert the pain in the day, but the warmth of the Bed at night doth stir up the malignity; and the very thoughts of the Patient in the night being fixed on the object of pain, doth make the misery more intolerable. Many years have some undergone the tyranny of this Distemper, till at last, it having enervated all the parts of the Body, and consumed the Flesh to the Bones, it surrenders them to the Grave; whom perhaps, had they but used such Medicines as had been proper in such cases, they might soon have eradicated the Venom out of their Bodies: But, as I have said before, 'tis not a few, but many thousands, that have perished for want of such Noble Medicines as have force to overcome the malignity of this Disease. How many Consumptions, Catarrhs, Asthmaes, and innumerable more Diseases, proceed from nothing else but this Fountain? I tell thee, Reader, 'tis this that is the domineering Distemper of our Age, though People are of opinion that the Scurvie is more prevailing, which indeed is a very destructive Malady, incident to most Men, especially to those that eat over-much Flesh, or lead sedentary Lives, and to Seamen in long Voyages: for the reliques of the Lues Venerea doth many times convert into the Scurvie and Dropsie, and not seldom into the Gout. And I pray observe this, That wherever any Distemper happens to be complicated with the Venereal Disease, or any Relique of it, it always proves very stubborn, and will not yield to ordinary Means, and cannot be perfectly cured without the use

Concerning the Cure of the *LUES VENEREA*.

IT may be expected I should be large on this Subject, since 'tis so generally known, that I have had so great an *Experience* of it; but should I relate the many *Observations* I have made of this *Distemper*, they would fill a *Volume*: But, *Reader*, since perhaps thou art a *Stranger* to my *Name*, I shall acquaint thee with some few *Particulars*, that thou mayst know I am no *Youngster* at the *Cure* of this *Disease*. Among the great number of those that pretend to the *Cure* of this *Distemper*, I have found very few that could give any rational *Account* of it, most of them following the *Methods* of ancient *Authors*, which in former *Ages* undoubtedly were very knowing in their way; but the *Disease* is so much altered in this our *Age*, that he which depends on former *Prescriptions* will find his *Medicines* invalid. There have been used, and still are, many ways for the curing of this *Malady*: Some use *Fumigations*; some *Salivation*, either by *Medicines* given inwardly, or by *Unguent* outwardly: Some use *Bathing* and *Sweating*; others work by *Diet*, and others by *Purging*; some make *Issues* in many Parts of the *Body*, to evacuate the offending *Humour*. The way by *Fumigations* I am against, and the use of them is now out of doors, being found to be very dangerous. I cannot approve of *Salivation*, for many Reasons: for whoever he be that undergoes a *Salivation* (which ought to continue at least *Twenty one days*) must have the patience of *Job*, or else he will never endure the torture that attends it; and I am of the opinion, that if Cases were equally balanced, you would find as many to be destroyed by *Salivating*, as ever were removed by it: as for example, 'tis certain, that

Salivation can be raised but by *Mercurial Medicines*, which I have often seen many to lament the rash use of; for by overcharging the *Tonsills* (which are the *glandulous Bodies* through which the *Spittle* cometh) and *Amygdales* (commonly called the *Almonds of the Ears*) with the *virulent Matter* which they strive to evacuate by *spitting*, I have often known such *Inflammations*, and after them *Uloerations* to happen, that the *Patient* has been near *choaked*, and the *acrimony* of the *Humour* lodged among the *parts*, until not onely it have eaten away the *Uvula*, but fouled the *Palat* of the *Mouth*, and oftentimes the *Bones of the Nose*; and I am certain, that most of those *Bridg-fallen Noses* that we daily see, are occasioned by *Salivation*. But suppose the *Patient* to escape all these *Accidents*, do but consider, how this way fouls the *Teeth*, beyond the help of any *Medicine* to cleanse again; and many times it leaves a *stinking Breath*, or perhaps it only leaves them a *pain* in their *Joynts*. Methinks, these things considered, People should not easily be persuaded to this sort of *Cure*, especially if they did but know what *Spasmaes* (or *Convulsions of the Nerves*) have been occasioned by it: I have seen *Mouths* drawn awry, and *Squinting* caused by it; *Limbs contracted*, and innumerable more *mischiefs* to arise from it: and I have been more troubled to help those *Accidents* that have hapned by reason of *Salivation*, than ever I was to cure the *Distemper* it self. *Sweating* I approve of, and likewise of *Bathing*; for being used in *due time* and *place*, they are very beneficial: for they *attenuate the Humours*, make the *Body* lively, and help to evacuate the *Matter*; especially if any *viscons Matter* have possess'd the *Joynts*, they by their *moderate heat* do help to discuss it. As for *Issues*, they serve well enough to attract and discharge

discharge the *Humour*, therefore very proper where the *Eyes* are affected, or in any *distillation* of the *Humour*, or in a *Catarh* or *Asthma*, they help much; but have no power of themselves to overcome the *Malignity*. But of all ways imaginable, there is none like *Diet* and *Purging*, which, if *rightly prepared*, and *carefully used*, do infallibly *eradicate* the *Distemper*. I can by *many Years experience* say, That *purging* is the most excellent way of *curing*, I mean *purging* with such *Noble Medicines* as have the power to *correct* the *Malignity* of so *virulent a Disease*: for 'tis not every of those *common Purgers* that have power to overcome the *Malignity*; but such *Specificks* which not onely purge the *offending Humour*, but by their *admirable Qualities* cleanse the *Blood*, fortifie the *Heart*, *Liver*, and *Brain*, and clearly extirpate the *Disease* from the *Body*. And indeed, the onely *Medicine* that ever I have found prevalent in these Cases, is my *Antivenereal Pills*, which work so *safely*, and so *surely*, that I never knew them fail, if taken *carefully*: I never use any other *Medicine* in all manner of *Claps*; and I could quote *vast numbers* of People that have been *cured* by them, to my *great pleasure* and *profit* (but *Silence* in such Cases is and always shall be my resolution.) In the *Pox* there have been such *strange Cures* wrought by *this Pill*, that have made many of my own Profession to admire the *Vertues* of it.

Wherefore since it hath pleased God to grant me the knowledge of so *wonderful a Medicine*, I could not rest satisfied in my mind until I published it for the good of the *World*. And now, *Reader*, pray be so charitable in thy Opinion of me, as not to judge me guilty of encouraging of *Lust*, by my acquainting the *World* with the *Effects* of it, and the way to

get out of the *Labyrinth* which it generally leaves Men in; neither think that I desire more to gain by my *Labours*, than to do good to my *Country* :

Quia, Nos non nobis nati sumus.

The ANTIVENEREAL PILL.

THESE Pills are of most wonderful Vertue; they work by *Stool* and *Urine*, and gently move *Sweat* : They work most by *Urine* ; for 'tis but rational the *Distemper* should be cast out the same way it was received. They work by *Stool* pleasantly, without any gripings or tortions of the *Guts*. They do most admirably correct the *virulency*, and take away the sharpness of *Urine*, in three or four times taking ; and I assure thee, upon the Faith of a *Christian*, that I have many times cured a *fresh Clap* with eight or nine doses of them, and sometimes with fewer, and that safely, without any relapse, and without any use of *Restricting Medicines* ; (for 'tis a common Trick among rash practitioners, that having given half a dozen or more purges, they presently administer *Restrictants*, and so stop the *Humour*, which will not lie still, but returning into the *Body*, seizes the *Liver*, corrupts the whole mass of blood, and consequently confirms a *Pox* in the body, perhaps to the utter ruine of the Patient.) These Pills are balsamick, as well as cathartick, and therefore do all the Intentions of Curing. They are to be taken two, three, or four at a time, still observing to alter the Dose according to the strength of the Patient : Two may be taken by any one for the first dose, and if they do not work by *Stool* seven or eight times, then increase the next day. They ought to be taken two

days together, and the Party to rest the third, and then to fall to them again; but if the Distemper be inveterate, let the Patient continue taking them without intermission; for they will work onely on the offending Humour. The best way of taking them is early in the Morning, and to lie in Bed and sleep two or three Hours after the taking of them. Sometimes I order them to be taken at Night, when the Party goes to Bed; but then the dose must not exceed two, or three at the most. And note, That the Party which takes them at Night, ought to eat no Supper, but early in the Morning to drink something that is warm; for they will work by Stool so soon as the Party rises. Those who take them in the Morning, whether they lie in Bed or not after they have took them, they ought in three Hours after them to take a draught of warm Ale, Posset drink, Water-gruel, or Mutton or Veal broth, which will much help the working of them. Any one may safely go abroad after they have taken them, but it would be better if they keep within till near Noon: at Dinner they may eat heartily of fresh Meats, and may drink Wine, provided they exceed not one pint a day; for I have found by experience, that Wine, moderately drank, is beneficial in most Diseases; and I find, that in Claps, or any Distemper where the Urinary passages are affected, Wine helpeth much, especially White wine.

This Pill is so safely prepared, that it may be taken by any person without danger, (as Women with Child, &c.) and the Operation of it is so free and easy, that it is pleasant, as well as profitable. It hath no corroding quality, nor doth it cause any unfavoury clodings, as loathsome Boles and Potions do. There is no Person but may take it, and go about their Business as if they did nothing; nor can it

that the Party has taken *any thing*: for it exhilarates all the *vital Faculties*, it being as much *cordial* as *purgative*. It not onely cures *safely, pleasantly, and quickly*; but 'tis a *great preservative* against the *Infection*: A *dose* taken immediately after the *Act*, either carrieth away all *Venom* with it, or causeth it forthwith to shew it self, whereby a more *speedy Cure* is acquired. In a word, I am certain there is no *Medicine* in the *World* more efficacious (in all *Effects* of the *Foul disease*) than these most excellent *Pills* are.

In *all manner* of *Poxes* I have found them most admirable: I have cured People which have been afflicted with all the *varieties* of the *Pox*, by these *Pills* onely: as for example, In an *old consumptive Pox*, where the Parties have been so weakned by *continual pains*, that they could scarce stir, I have administered these *worthy Pills*, which have worked so effectually with *correcting the Cause*, and *evacuating the offending Humour*, and by their *nutritive quality* corroborating the *vital parts*, they have soon restored the Patients to *perfect Health*.

Others whose *privy-parts* have been covered with *warts* (which is an *absolute demonstration* that the *Distemper* hath taken root in the *body*) I have given them of *these Pills*, which have eradicated the *Distemper*, that the *Warts* have consumed without any *local Applications*.

I have cured many of *large Nodes* by the use of *these Pills*; for they dissolve them, and purge away the *dregs* of the *Disease*. These *Nodes* are caused by the *phlegmatick part* of the *Venom* left behind in *ill-manag'd Cures*: they are very painful *Smellings*, sometimes on the *Shins* onely, and many times in many parts of the *body*; and the *bones* are often fouled by them, if not great care taken.

I have met with many *rebellious Ulcers* in the *privy parts*, and in many other *parts* of the *body*, which have resisted the force of many good *Medicines* outwardly applied: In all such cases I have used *these Pills*, which has so changed the *ill habit* of the *Body* of the *Patients*, that their *Sores* have easily yielded to the *same Medicines*, and incarnated handsomely, and have been cured without any *relapse*. *Reader*, I could relate much more of the *Vir- tues* of *these excellent Pills*, but I suppose what I have already said may be *satisfactory enough*: but if thou art dubious of any thing that thou hast read here, I shall be very willing to satisfy thee in it, and I question not but to *justify* what I have here *pub- lished* to the *World*.

Those to whom *Pills* are troublesome to swallow, may take them in the *pulp* of an *Apple*, a *stew'd Prune*, a *Raisin*, or a *preserved Cherry*; or they may put them into a piece of *Leaf-wafer*, and take them in a spoonful of *Ale*, or any other *Liquor*, as they best like.

These *Pills* are put up in *Tin Boxes*, and sealed with my *Coat of Arms*, each Box containing *Thirty Pills*, and are sold for *Four shillings* the Box. They are sold at *my own House*, and the following Places:

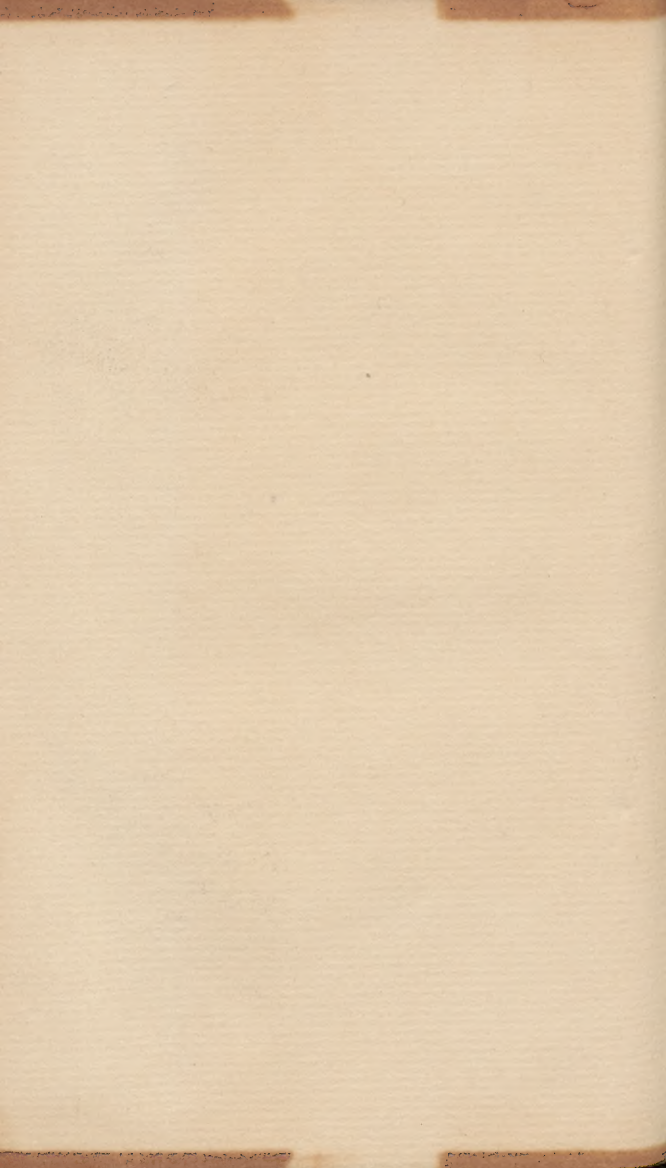
Mr. Thomas Burrell's Book-seller, at the Golden- Ball under St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street.

Mr. Garway's Coffee-house in Exchange Alley.

Mr. Robert Pask's Stationer, in the Piazza on the North side of the Royal Exchange.

Mr. Henry Bennet's Cutler, in St. Bartholomew-lane.





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